in the Hindustan Times, dated 17th June, 1998 to the effect that a permanent solution to the Kashmir problem lay only in a tripartite conference and interaction between the three parties in the dispute; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government have seen the reported statement of the former Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri G.M. Shah. The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State is in Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation. India is committed to a resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan by peaceful means through direct bilateral negotiations as laid down in the Simla Agreement.

Visas Issued to Pakistani Citizens

3276. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of visas issued by India to Pakistani citizens desiring to visit India after the announcement of liberal visa package by Shir I.K.. Gujral, former Prime Minister of India;

(b) whether Pakistan has also responded by liberalising visa to Indian citizens visiting Pakistan; and

(c) what is the total number of Indians who visited Pakistan and Pakistanis who visited India during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) 89142 Pakistani nationals were issued visas to visit India (from May, 1997 to June, 1998) by the High Commission of India in Islamabad after the announcement of unilateral measure easing issuance of visas to Pakistani nationals.

(b) Government are not aware of any specific steps taken by Pakistan regarding its visa policy for Indian nationals.

(c) The number of Indians who visited Pakistan in 1997 is not known as Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi does not provide any information regarding visas issued to Indian nationals desirous of visiting Pakistan. 97187 Pakistani nationals visited India in 1997.

पासपोर्ट कार्यालय का अहमदाबाद से गांधीनगर स्थानान्तरण

3277. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार पूरे राज्य के लोगों की सुविधा के लिये क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट कार्यालय को अहमदाबाद से गांधीनगर स्थानांतरित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक लिये जाने की संभावना है;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकार ने इस संबंध में सभी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने का आश्वासन दिया है; और

(घ) क्या क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट कार्यालय को गांधीनगर स्थानांतरित करने का निर्णय सर्वाधिक उपयुक्त साबित होगा?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Chinese Military Aid to Pakistan

3278. SHRI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the reaction of Government and the steps taken to meet any threat from Pakistan or from any other country in view of Press reports that Pakistan Army Chief is visiting China to seek enhanced supply of conventional weapons and other military aid from China to tide over the financial crunch facing its forces and also that Pakistan is reported to be soon receiving a ship-load of special metals and electronics used to make Chinese anti-tank missiles 'Bakhtar Shikan'?